デルレイ

Yozakura Quartet

Suzuhito Yasuda

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Hime is a superheroine. Ao can read minds. Kotoha can conjure up anything with the right word. And Akina . . . well, he's just a regular guy, surrounded by three supergirls! Together, they protect the town of Sakurashin. But that's not easy, as the town faces demon dogs and other supernatural threats!

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Quartet of cherry blossoms in the night

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1

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Lettered by North Market Street Graphics

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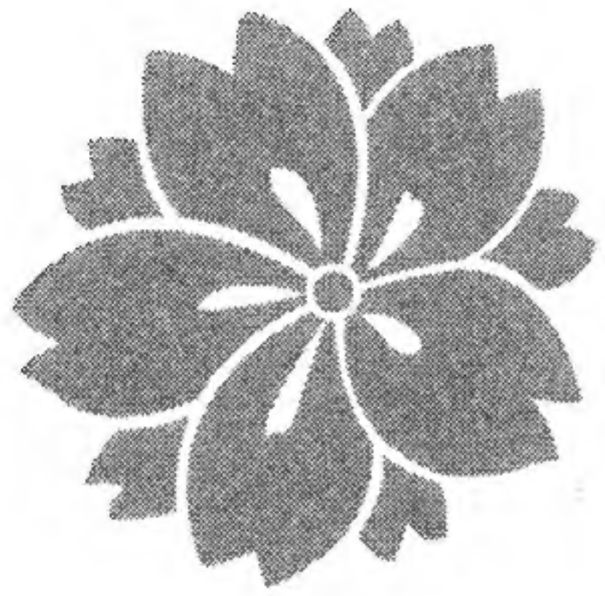

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A Note from the Author

There are these three girls who do whatever they want and always end up making a big scene. It feels like I'm being pulled by them, or being pushed around by them. But I was just trying to keep up with them, and this book was the result. If someone asked me if this book was more like a son or a daughter to me, I would have to say a daughter.

That's the kind of manga this is.

Suzuhito Yasuda

Honorifics Explained

Throughout the Del Rey Manga books, you will find Japanese honorifics left intact in the translations. For those not familiar with how the Japanese use honorifics and, more important, how they differ from American honorifics, we present this brief overview.

Politeness has always been a critical facet of Japanese culture. Ever since the feudal era, when Japan was a highly stratified society, use of honorifics—which can be defined as polite speech that indicates relationship or status—has played an essential role in the Japanese language. When addressing someone in Japanese, an honorific usually takes the form of a suffix attached to one's name (example: "Asuna-san"), is used as a title at the end of one's name, or appears in place of the name itself (example: "Negi-sensei," or simply "Sensei!").

Honorifics can be expressions of respect or endearment. In the context of manga and anime, honorifics give insight into the nature of the relationship between characters. Many English translations leave out these important honorifics and therefore distort the feel of the original Japanese. Because Japanese honorifics contain nuances that English honorifics lack, it is our policy at Del Rey not to translate them. Here, instead, is a guide to some of the honorifics you may encounter in Del Rey Manga.

-san: This is the most common honorific and is equivalent to Mr., Miss, Ms., or Mrs. It is the all-purpose honorific and can be used in any situation where politeness is required.

-sama: This is one level higher than "-san" and is used to confer great respect.

-dono: This comes from the word "tono," which means "lord." It is an even higher level than "-sama" and confers utmost respect.

-kun: This suffix is used at the end of boys' names to express familiarity or endearment. It is also sometimes used by men among friends, or when addressing someone younger or of a lower station.

-chan: This is used to express endearment, mostly toward girls. It is also used for little boys, pets, and even among lovers. It gives a sense of childish cuteness.

Bozu: This is an informal way to refer to a boy, similar to the English terms "kid" and "squirt."

Sempai/
Senpai: This title suggests that the addressee is one's senior in a group or organization. It is most often used in a school setting, where underclassmen refer to their upperclassmen as "sempai." It can also be used in the workplace, such as when a newer employee addresses an employee who has seniority in the company.

Kohai: This is the opposite of "sempai" and is used toward underclassmen in school or newcomers in the workplace. It connotes that the addressee is of a lower station.

Sensei: Literally meaning "one who has come before," this title is used for teachers, doctors, or masters of any profession or art.

-[blank]: This is usually forgotten in these lists, but it is perhaps the most significant difference between Japanese and English. The lack of honorific means that the speaker has permission to address the person in a very intimate way. Usually, only family, spouses, or very close friends have this kind of permission. Known as *yobisute*, it can be gratifying when someone who has earned the intimacy starts to call one by one's name without an honorific. But when that intimacy hasn't been earned, it can be very insulting.

Yozakura Quartet 1

Suzuhito Yasuda

Yozakura Quartet Contents

003……Sakura Blossoming
055……Waiting for You (Part 1)
081……Waiting for You (Part 2)
119……Face the Risks
163……Your Song
200……Extras

Eek!!

BLAM

BLAM

Aahhh!

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

Scared?

But there's more coming!

Oh... oh...

She fainted already.

THUNK

...Oh.

How boring. I wanted you to be scared for longer.

Oh, come on.

1st Night:
Sakura Blossoming

Attention, townspeople.

BEEP

The suspect in the random shootings is still at large.

Please try to avoid going out after sunset.

HIME-SAMA!

Right.

SST

What?

It's time to go.

And don't make me say it again.

I would do anything to resolve this.

While I'm on duty, call me "Mayor"!

Yes.

I'm sorry.

ZWISH

IMP

They're opposed to hiring the group, as we predicted.

But we have no choice.

Kotoha!

Kotoha!

Huh? But no one's been injured, right?

It's dangerous out anyway. You should go home.

Let's go do karaoke.

I want to hear you sing!

WAAAH

Then let's go tomorrow.

What a weird shooter.

Sorry.

I have work today.

.....

Oh my...

My kite got caught.

WHOOSH

If only...

...there were a strong "wind" to blow it...

...then you could get it.

Whoa!

Whoa! It's so high!

Give it back!

No.

Just give it back.

Hey!

No way, Jose!

Give me back my candy.

If you can guess which hand it's in, I'll give it back!

Which one is it?

HIDE

SHOW

Here.

DING!

Looking from this side...

I can't tell.

But it's really in my pocket.

How did you know?

That's not fair.

Huh?

It's not in either?

It's in his back pocket?

WHISPER

Whaaaat!?

TAP

ZWISH

Is this about the case?

Yes, in the office...

Is Director Akina here?

Ao.

Doesn't matter. It's a problem in my town!

The Neighborhood Watch and police aren't enough.

If you hire us, aren't you going to get complaints from the higher-ups in the district?

The Hiizumi Life Counseling Office...

Hiizumi Life Counseling Office

However...

Just call it a historic building...

Ao and I are employees here.

RUN-DOWN

It's run-down as always...

But I'm more worried about the employees.

Hiizumi Life Counseling Office

CLICK

I'm sure Akina has already taken action on this case.

It's a dump, but this office is perfect for cases like this one.

BAM!

Akina! You know that case about...

I thought she just had her hand on the doorknob...

Hello!

SLOB

Oh, HM? hey.

SPLASH

SPLASH ばちゃ ばちゃ

What about the case?

Oh, my.

SGT

...

It's not a big deal.

...he's a shooter, but no one's injured, right?

Aw, come on...

Look.

THROW

パサ
FLAP

The suspect.

What?

Huh?

You have that much information on him?

I change

...and has been in jail for two years.

He was convicted of injuring thirteen people in a shooting rampage...

His name is Kosuke Yoshimura

He's a total freak. Completely trigger-happy.

...he collapsed in pain one night.

He was being taken to the doctor when he ran away.

In jail? So he escaped?

Yeah. According to the guards...

The wall was ten meters high.

He jumped it easily.

That means...

Super powers?

.....

Yeah.

This involves the seven spiritual sakura...

...the Seven Pillars."

I'm sure of it.

ONE

.....

.....

I guess we'll eat first.

Kotoha, can you order?

Sure.

GROWL

Oh.

Coming.

DING DONG

CLICK

Hello!

I'm from Houran. Here's your order.

RIN

WOO HOO わお わお

Oh yeah.

Hey, can I get a receipt that says the order was for Sakurashin Town?

ﾆﾔ WHISPER

Huh?

Thanks, Rin-chan.

How much?

It'll be 3,800 yen.*

*Approx. $38

You can't get reimbursed for that.

SLURP ｽｽｽ...

Then can our office pay?

Um... Kotoha-san.

Uh, it's made out to someone else, so I can't take it.

I can't spend tax money just like that!!

Huh? Why not!?

It's a necessary expense to solve this case!!

SLURP ｽｽｽ SLURP ｽｽｽ SLURP ｽｽｽ

RECEIPT For Sakurashin Town 3,800 yen

Hime, here.

It's in the city's name, so can I get reimbursed?

Mayor!

Trash.

Then this receipt is...?

RECEIPT
For Sakurashin
Town
3,800 yen
Food expense
HOURAN

Hey, actually, you guys pay for your own food!

Why do I have to treat you!?

Shut up! I can't hear the TV!!

Are you serious?

RUSTLE

Oh, that's right outside our station.

Don't touch that dial. ♡

This is Juri, in front of the Sakurashin Town station.

She's the town celebrity.

She's on TV a lot lately.

There are no commercials, Juri-san!!

SLURP

Today we'll...oh!

Okay, in this segment, I will, as a doctor, examine the people strolling through town.

PUSH PUSH

You with the pale face!

Inter-ested?

Huh?

Me?

Do I look that pale?

PUSH

Oh?

!!

Ha ha!

I guess I've gotten that reputation.

You won't kill me, right?

Oh no, are you the...

That's right. The famous shooter.

But oh well.

I'm actually a fan of yours...

Oh, is this the camera?

But, actually...

So I scared them and then let them go free.

That'd be boring.

If I kill my victims, they won't feel fear anymore, right?

Are all my victims watching?

Good.

...they can relive their fears over and over.

But if they see me on the news...

Now I'm going to kill you all.

See you soon!

Okay... preparation time is over!

What...

GRRRRR

What's with him!?

What!?
What!?
What!?

What?

They left already.

EMPTY

That...

...guy...

Hey, every-one!

Just get back to work, Rin-chan.

NO WAY!

They left me behind!?

SLURP
SLURP

Hold it right there!!

ZWISH

Urgh...

That is, if you're still alive.

Can I get your autograph later?

WHIP!

You're not going anywhere, you criminal twerp!!

Something new!

CLICK

Criminal twerp? That's not nice.

Ack!

Aaaghhh!

Damn it!

CLANG

CRACK

CRACK

CLANG

CLANG

CLANG

Whoa!!

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

BLAM

DASH

We gotta get out of here!

He might hit civilians.

WHIP

Oh!

BLAM

BLAM

DASH

There's nowhere in town where there isn't someone!

Idiot!

CLICK

...?!

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

UMM...

Ao!

I can do it!

Cat ears?

What the heck?

"Satellite!!"

BOOM

...Mm!!

Pick up my grand-kid...

Turn left at the corner...

Florist and market...

Ha!

There's no way...

I found it!!

Turn right at the next corner...

The intersection of Tsurumaki Street!!

DAAAAAAAAASH

MOVE IT

MOVE IT

Got it!

...no...

SILENCE

...way...

No one's here!?

It'll be empty...

...for four minutes!

That's long enough!!

Well, it doesn't matter anyway!

Didn't you just eat?

Okay, I'll buy you muffins later!

GROWL

I used too much power. I'm hungry...

Die!!

BLAM

CRAAAACK!

It broke!!

Of course it did!

NO WAY

Aaaaghh!

BLAM

What the...!?

You... Monster!!

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

BLAM

What the heck are you doing!?

BLAM BLAM BLAM

How dare you!

WHAP!

WHIP

If you can slap a bullet from the side at Mach three, you can deflect it.

Kids, please don't try this at home...

This is a manga, after all.

You're gonna pay for this!

WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP WHIP

BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM BLAM

Then take this!

KERCHUNK

GLINT キラン

My shotgun...

Uh...

Huh?

KICK

Give it up!

Urgh.

Yeah, right!

WOOSH

I still have more guns!!

WOOSH

TA-DA

Never take a gun nut lightly!!

Go to hell!

TWITCH

"Freeze."

CRACK

!?

WOBBLE

What... the heck?

THUD

CW!

Ouch!!

THUD

Oh my...

You say you're a gun nut but you only have a few guns.

Bullet.

!?

Tsuru-Maki Street

SSHHHINGGG

BULLET

BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG

Feel the wrath...

BULLET

BULLET

CRACKLE

CRACKLE

BULLET

...of a true gun nut!!

BULLET

WOOSH

BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM
BLAM BLAM

AAAAGGGGHHHH!

BLAM
BLAM
BLAM

Whoa!

DASH

Do you think he's alive?

SMOKE

SMOKE

GRAB

Oh...

Monsters or not, you'll die if I shoot you in the heart!!

Ao!

Crap!

Right!?

Ugh...!!

.....

...back, you monsters!!

BLAM

Stay...

BLAM

Hey...

WHIP

WHISPER

FLAP

Aaaagghhh!!

Don't make me mad.

SILENCE

Huh?

...

...Tricked you.

I'm just a normal human being.

RECEIPT
For Sakurashin
Town
3,800 yen
Food expense
HOURAN G

WOOSH

...What?

Hey...

Stop...

What?

GRAB

KONK

OW!!

FLOAT

Oh.

OWWWWW.

THROB

We got it.

There it goes.

What do we do now?

We can just leave it. It'll disappear over time.

Then for now...

True.

It's been almost four minutes.

Normal disappear!

But that was a weird case of spirit possession.

...this...

...case is closed!!

BUZZ

BUZZ

VROOM...

BUZZ

CLICK

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

BUZZ

Let's go home.

Yeah.

Tsun tsun dere tsun ♪

Dere tsun tsun

Hm.

My theme song.

I see.

What's that song?

An interesting group.

ｽﾔｽﾔ
SST

An ordinary human.

A super mayor.

A kotodama user who can conjure up anything she speaks.

And a satori, a demon who can read other people's minds.

I see.

How interesting!

It would be a waste—

...to destroy the town you protected.

...Right, Makinaru?

Oh, forgot about that shotgun.

OW!

Yozakura Quartet Designs

Akina Hiizumi

Age: 18

Hobbies:
cooking, cleaning

Favorites

Food:
curry

Music Group:
Your Song Is Good

Comedian:
Itoshi Koishi Master

Uchi-P member:
Otake

Little-Known Fact:
He's skilled with the abacus.

173 cm*

*Approx: 5'8"

HIDAGYU

Welcome

You don't know it!?

It's Hidagyu from "Rocket Monsters!"

It's so cute. No wonder it's a popular character.

I see.

What is that tasty-looking, I mean, cute character?

HOW CUTE

HIDAGYU?

She said it!

SHOCK

ガーン

...looks tasty...

And...

It's so cute...

2nd Night: Waiting for You (Part 1)

Dere! Tsun! Tsun!

Tsun! Tsun!
Dere! Tsun!

GO!
ピヒー

CLAP
パチ

CLAP
パチ

Yay, we're done!

We'll call it a day! Make sure to practice at home!

Noooo!!

Tsun tsun tsun dere...

The kids like her...

That wasn't playing!

Let's play some more, Hime!

BUZZ
BUZZ

And what is our Mayor doing?

That's our town song?

Yeah! The town song!

A CD? Of that song you were singing?

I'm thinking of making a CD!

Hello! Delivery!

We have new residents here in our town...

I built a kindergarten!

I see.

Who ordered the spicy shredded pork ramen?

Why make a CD all of a sudden? Are you low on cash?

Hello!

Did you spend it on some-thing?

Bon appetit!

HEH HEH HEH

And this is my nice side, the wonderful mayor...

Problems?

SLURP
ズズ
ズズ

OPEN
あんぐ

We have just two problems...

ポン
KICK

See that boy?

He's that good?

Yeah, he's really good.

But he's been depressed lately, and won't do it.

I was hoping he'd sing the lead.

The lead?

11

12

トン
TAP...

.....

Junta!

I remember the town karaoke tournament. We were the two finalists...

Forget it

It's dinnertime, Junta.

Let's go home.

...Okay.

Okay.

We're having your favorite curry today.

...

I wonder what happened?

He used to be more cheerful.

...

ZWISH...

I need him to cheer up because I can't release the CD without him.

I'm going to look into it, but can you guys check it out as well?

All right. We'll try.

It's for the good of our town!

We don't have enough teachers.

We'll have more next week...but none this week.

And your other problem?

Oh, right.

The kindergarten I mentioned earlier.

Me, too.

I have school!

Hime, why don't you do it?

SLURP

Really? Thanks.

I have to wake up at seven?

BLECH

Then we'll do it.

BLECH

That helps a lot.

I'll add Kyosuke, too!

That could be a problem...

URGH...

Yeah, that's true.

But hey...

MUNCH

HMM...

...don't you guys need credentials?

It's an emergency, so there are no other options!

R-RR

WAAAAH

All right.

SOMETHING!

There's got to be something I can do.

I'M the mayor!

Do what?

Oh, okay...

Thanks...

Oh! Then I'll do it, too!

I don't work until the afternoon...

RIN

LOOKS LIKE A KINDERGARTNER

リアル園児風。

...just like one of the students...

?

But she looks...

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

チャーチャーラーラーラー

YSIG
BEGR

WE ARE THE CHAMPIONS

チャーチャーラーラーラー

They look like they're having fun...

SMILE

Kyosuke sensei.

Here! For you!

How cute!

Thank you.

Don't bring my sister into this!

Hey, wait a minute!

"Your onii-chan likes little girls."

You know what I'm going to tell Touka-chan?

GASP

うぉー
YAY

Would "Your onii-chan's got a weird sister complex" be better?

You little...!!

わわ

THUMP THUMP

They get along so well.

バタタ

RARGH RARGH

Do you want to step outside, Akina sensei?

GGGRIP

You're not going to deny liking little girls?

NEXT!

Can you play the next song?

Oh, okay.

Sensei!

Butterfly!

Sponge-bob!

わおわお CHATTER CHATTER

The train song!

Hm? What did you want?

Um...

Uh...um...

. . . . . .

ぼそぼそ MUMBLE MUMBLE

Say it!

CRACKLE パチパチ

Say it louder!

Er...

TING...

Little Star!

Oh...

This one!

Wow, how did you know?

HOW COOL

HERE

She's gone...

Where did Rin-chan go?

She's gone...

HERE

YAY

Fresh mineral water

HERE

Take that!

GLANCE

GLANCE

Where did she go?

Oh?

SST

...Hello.

He's a student here.

Hello.

That bird really likes you.

I gave it food when it was hurt.

I see.

...

...

RUSTLE

I'm okay...

You don't look too happy lately. Everyone's worried.

わーい YAY YAY

Here! Snacks!

TA-DA

I'm not hungry...

Here! Toys!

TA-DA

...No thanks.

. . . . . .

Here! Hidagyu!

TA-DA

This should...

RUSTLE RUSTLE

Then... how about this?

TH-
THUMP

!

DAAASH

...

SST

...

...No thanks. I don't need it!

DASH

Oh...

FLAP

FLAP

It's easy!

Just use your ability to read his Mind!

SLURP

And if he becomes cheerful again, we can release the song and earn money for the town!

I'm sure he has a reason. You just need to find it.

The town will become a better place!

. . . . . .

And ev-erything will be resolved!

I don't want to read his mind...

Huh?

What did you say?

SMILE

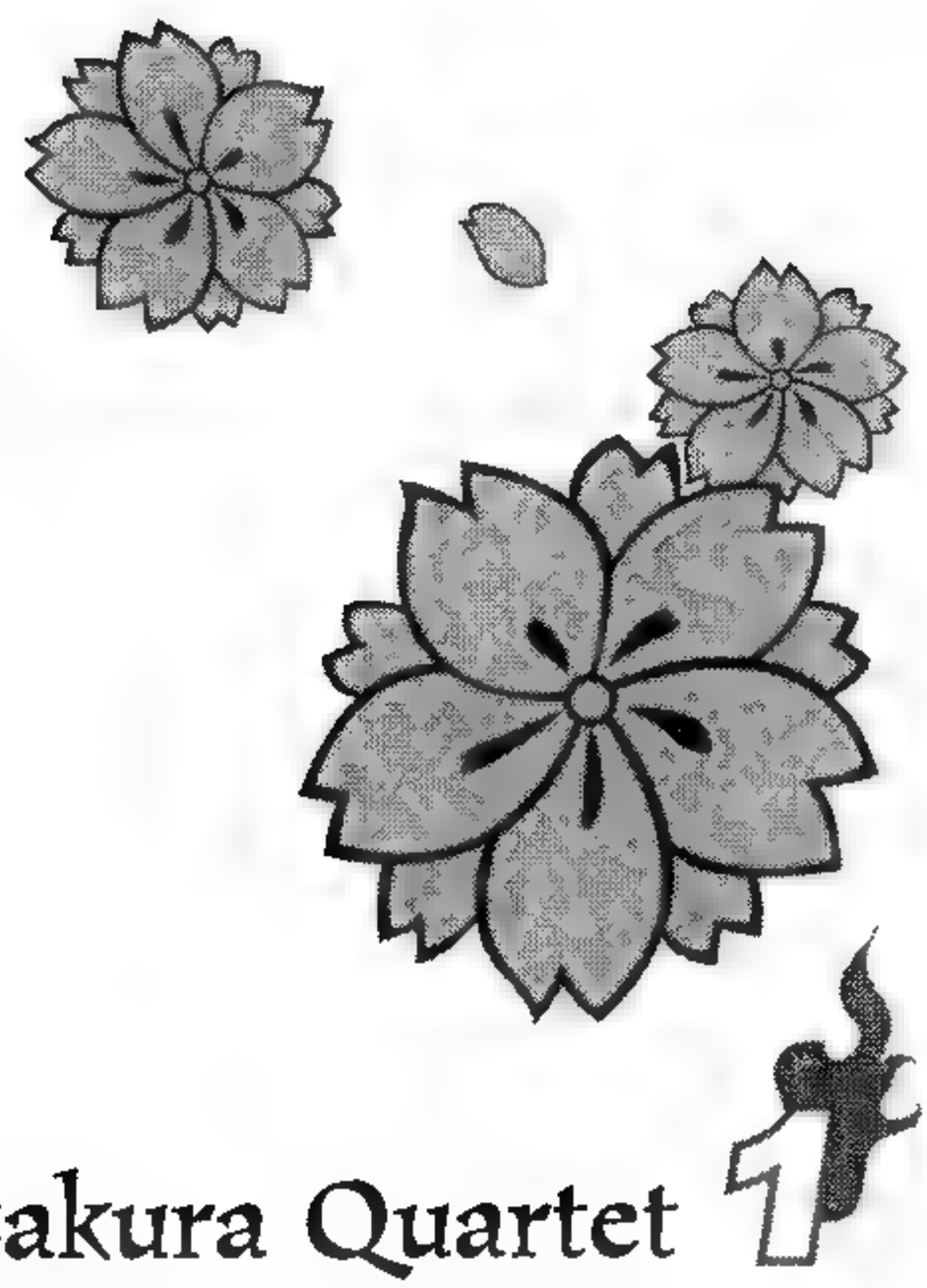
SMILE

Then we'll finish eating and go...

I...I don't want to.

CRACK

What did you say?



Yozakura Quartet

Yozakura Quartet
Designs

Usually hides her ears
(with a hat or headphones)

Age: 15

Hobbies:
climbing trees, eating

Favorites

Food:
sweet things

Music Group:
Suemitsu & the Suemith

Comedian:
Chaplin

Uchi-P member:
Red Yoshida

Little-Known Fact:
can run 100 meters*
in 10+ seconds

*Approx. 109 yards

148 cm*

*Approx. 4'10"

Ao

I'd be happy if you could wash the bowls.

Before you return them to us.

♫

♫

"Song for picking up bowls."

I'll sit in again today because they didn't notice.

♫

♩

♪

♩

Oh! They're having fun again today.

おROAR ROAR
あ
あ
あ

I can't tell if they're working.

Hello!!

SLAM

ばきゃ

AARGGH

AARRGH

おおさわぎ!

TROUBLE!

Whoa!!

3rd Night: Waiting for You (Part 2)

ごめんね

I know.
I know.

WAAH

But I don't think I should this time.

Why not? You've always read people's minds to resolve cases!!

I understand that it doesn't feel good reading other people's minds! I'm sure people don't want their minds to be read, either!

But this is for the sake of the town!

WOOSH

What's going on?

Shut up!

Oh my gosh, what's wrong? You guys never fight!

If you're saying...

...that the town is more important than the people...

THUD

We have to read Junta's mind and fix his problems or we can't release the CD!

It's for the town, so you better cooperate!

Urgh...

I don't want to live in that kind of town!

Whoa.

ROLL

THUD

WAAH

AO!

DASH

...

Oh boy

...Hey.

Yes?

That was totally uncool.

...I know.

Akina.

Maybe I said too much.

Oh.

CRIFF

It's Junta-kun's grandmother.

Yes. I work there.

Aren't you from Hiizumi-san's office?

I'm glad.

Fine enough to fight...

She's fine...

SNIFF

TURN

Urgh...

It seems that Hime-chan's there a lot, too. How is she?

. . . . . .

Everyone in my generation thinks of her as a grand-daughter.

She's been mayor since she was nine, right?

.....

Too blunt...

She's just so blunt.

And sometimes her feelings for this town may go overboard...

But she's doing a good job.

It's for the town so you better cooperate!

...I read her mind right now, I might find out something...

If...

See you.

Oh...

Oops. I came here looking for Junta.

.....

Ack!

She left.

PEEK

ピョン

. . . . . .

I didn't see anything!

ポコ

THUD

ポコ

THUD

ポコ

THUD

?

...I don't know anymore.

HM.

All this time, I've been reading minds, thinking it was for the greater good.

And I understand Hime-chan's feelings toward the town.

Hmm...

But am I being selfish...

...for not wanting to read this time?

. . . . . .

I don't know!

Oh.

Hey, don't get depressed!

I'm seriously in a bind...

But I really don't know.

No matter how much you think that this is for someone else... or that it's for the greater good...

If you take action, figuring that the other person will be happy...

Well, you really can't tell that... ...unless you read their mind.

...you're the only one who can judge your actions.

.....

Look, everyone goes through life... ...taking care of themselves and doing what they need to do.

Everyone.

So, I think you can just go about your life...

...living the way you want.

. . . . . .

OK

PEEK

And doing what you want.

And if you mess up...

...just come and lean on me and Hime.

...aren't so small that there's no room for your problems.

This town and our office...

SNIFF

Er...

I'm going to go buy dinner!

DASH

You're one of our most valuable employees.

TAP

. . . . . .

But you just ate...

DAASH だだだ

I'll leave her with you.

. . . . . .

DRAG ズズ

But until then...

...please take care of my sister, Ao.

I'll definitely be back.

Am I doing the right thing, Gin?

Hmm...

I wonder...

TMD TMD TMD

Huh?

What should I do with these groceries?

DILE ぐぅ～

CHIRP...

WOOSH

I got it!

I know why he's depressed!

CLICK

Oh.

Fif-teen...

CHIRP

CHIRP

Six-teen...

KICK

KICK

Nine-teen...

KICK

Eigh-teen...

CHIRP...

Seven-teen...

Tw—

Twenty.

Huh?

WOOSH

Ick

Dad...

You're working hard, huh?

Hey.

It's been a while.

JUMP

Hey!

Dad!!

You've gotten so much better.

I saw.

Just like I promised, I can do it up to twenty!

Oh, really?

SHOCK

I don't really like Hidagyu...

Hidagyu!

Here! I got you a reward!!

But...

SQUEEZE

TA-DA

Welcome

Welcome home, Dad!

...this is fine!

And how do you know I can kick the ball twenty times?

Heh heh.

But what about your work?

PHEW

A girl with eyebrows like this?

A girl with eyebrows like this...

...came and asked my boss to let me come back.

. . . . . .

I thought that if I made the town good, the people would be happy.

Taking care of a town is difficult...

LESSONS

PIPING HOT LUNCH

So if I want a good town, I have to make them happy first.

But now I realize the people *are* the town.

Yeah.

JUMP

Well, it's good that you've realized that.

. . . . . .

I'll take it one person at a time.

I'll talk to each resident to resolve his or her problems!

TMD

TA-DA

This is it!!

We'll move up in baby steps!

Kiyoshi?

Urgh...

Then let's go, Hime.

CHIRP...

It's a promise, Dad!

.....

I know.

The Hidagyu that's popular right now, okay?

Okay!

Give me a reward if I can do it, okay?

Yeah.

Twenty times!

...Yeah.

Promise.

PEEK

GRAB

THUMP

Here we go.

Phew...

Yeah.

Thanks for letting me know.

CHIRP CHIRP

Thanks.

It helped me a lot.

PHEW

How is it, Ao?

. . . . . .

WHIIR

WHIIR

Yeah!

Isn't it a great view? It's my favorite place.

Yeah...

I have to go in order to protect this town.

But I'll come back to see this view again.

I promise.

I promise.

ONE

CAW
CAW
FLAP
FLAP

SNIFF

FLAP

CAW

CAW

FLAP

ONE

FLAP

FLAP

. . . . ?

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

FLAP

ONE

FLAP

FLAD

Nii-san?

FLAD

FLAD

WHOOSH

Oh!

SSHH...

WHOOSH...

. . . . . .

WHOOSH

ONE

.....

Yeah.
I'm fine.

CHIRP

It was just my imagination...

Nii-san... wouldn't be here.

Right?

I should get back.

It's cold...

Hey.

WHOOSH

Hey, Ao!

Come on, Hime.

Urgh...

SHIVER

But it's so cold.

Okay!

My treat!

Come down!

Let's go get some ice cream.

Go!

JUMP

FLAP

I'll see you later.

Owww...

I messed up again...

TWIRL

CRACK

GASP

Aaagh!

Are you okay?

I'm surprised you found out that kid's problem.

Huh!?

THUD!

Where'd you get your information?

Oh.

Hee hee...

Didn't you know? My research skills are amazing!

I'm a valuable employee!

Oh, well.

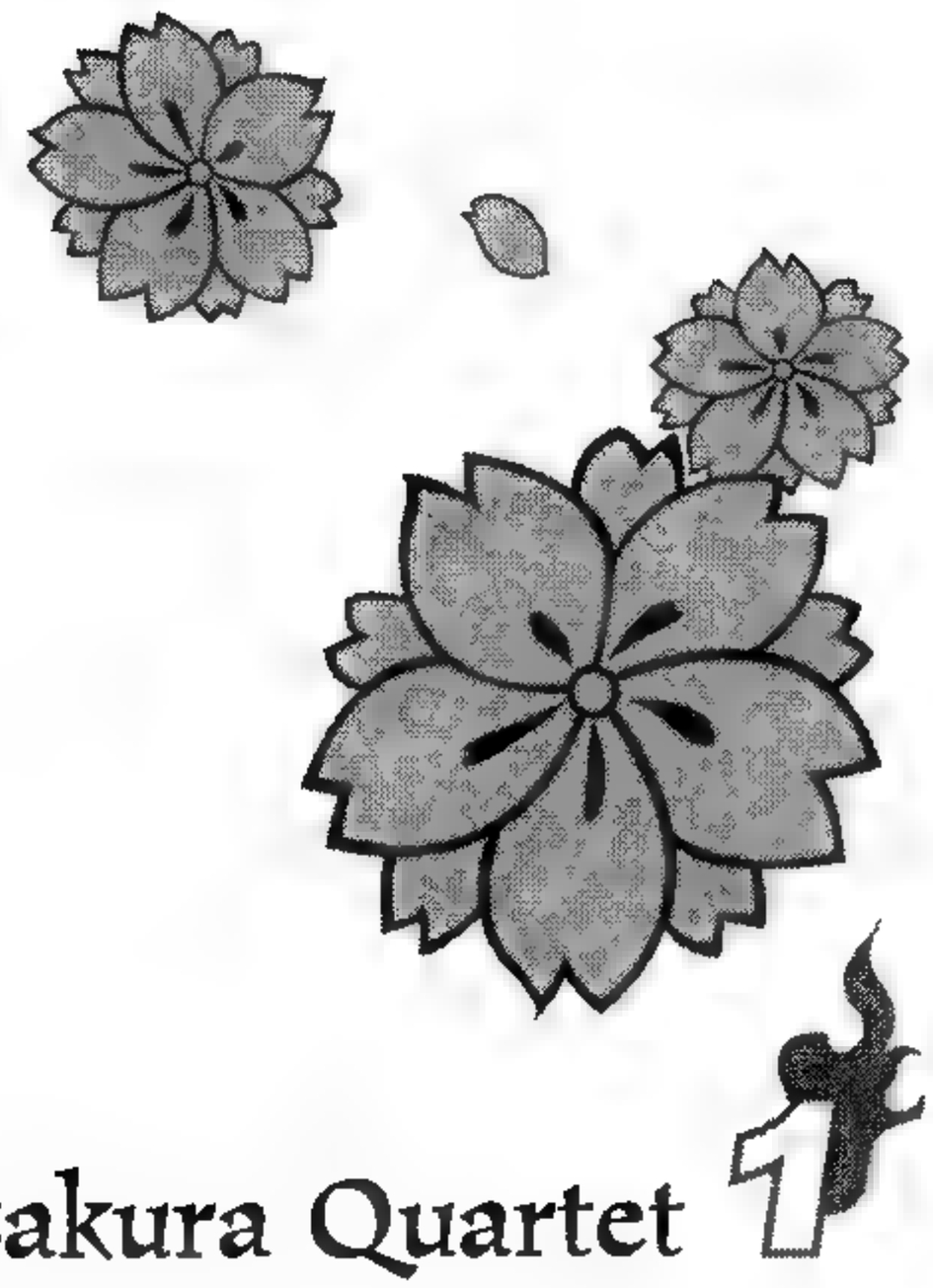
I see...

Then please take care of the invoices back at the office.

I hate numbers...

Urgh...

3rd Night: Waiting for You (Part 2) FIN



Yozakura Quartet

Yozakura Quartet Designs

Hime Yarizakura

Winter clothes

166 cm*

Age: 16

Hobbies:
patrolling, training

Favorites

Food:
any noodles

Music Group:
Under the Counter

Comedian:
Warai Meshi

Uchi-P member:
Mimura

Little-Known Fact:
She does get fat if she eats too much.

*Approx: 5'5"

mayor.

I'M the

...but it looks like I don't have enough time.

I wanted to teach you more before this day...

I know... thank you.

I'll be fine, because...

...I'm your grand-daughter!

I'll be fine Grandma

That's not true, woof...

Grand-ma.

You're talking funny.

You can take this to remember me, woof.

Woof?

I'm leaving the town in good hands, woof.

?! WOOF

? WOOF

WOOF

WOOF

WOOF

WOOF

WOOF

And you smell like dogs...

WOOF

HEY!

4th Night: Face the Risks

Has it been a Month?

Yes.

Let's go!

This is an abandoned dog who was left with the police.

I'd imagine it'd be too much to ask you to take him.

Of course I can take him!!

BLUNTLY

Poor girl...

She can't say no when people are counting on her...

So until she finds an owner...

WOOF わん

TMP の TMP の

DING DONG ピンポーン

But...

AAGH

ACK

ドタン バタン
THUMP THUMP

?

DASH

Hello!

I told you to discipline him!

Hime, I've had enough!!

Hey! Sheesh!

PANT PANT

It's better to be too spirited than to have no spirit at all! Come, Silva.

I think you're too easy on him.

SAD...

Say you're sorry!

But...it's not good to make a mess.

NO!

GOOD

Okay, go ahead and eat the ice cream!

WOOF!

SLURP

SLURP

Is it good?

WOOF

I'M hungry, too!

Treat me to ramen!

Your personality changes so much when you're hungry!

WAAAAH

Whoa!

TEARY EYES

Akina.

I want some ramen...

Sheesh...

What a weird dog like I crea

That's not my problem!

So can you treat me?

I already spent too much buying his food...

Go get some ramen at the store.

PUSH

Waaah!

I have to take care of Hime-sama.

SHINE

And she's taken in too many calories today.

Hey, Kyosuke! Order some-thing for her!

Do something!

No can do.

By the way, her current weight is 0.8 kg* more than last week, and it's now—

WAAAH

OUCH

WHACK

*Approx. 1.7 lbs.

TAP

Give me ramen!

Get off of me!

HUG

HUG

WOOF!

Aagh!

ARRINNG

HUG

Oh!

Came to

You little...

GASP

IDIOT!

Oh...it's time for the town Meeting! I have to go!

Why are you hugging Me!?

You hugged Me!

WHACK

Hime, you have to discipline him or you won't find an owner.

It'll be okay! See you!

I'll be back later!

Let's go, Silva!

WOOF

SLAM

ガチャン

ピー

POUR

Akina's asleep already?

zzz

What?

We've had jobs other than fighting demons and spirits. That's how we make ends meet.

We've been busy lately...

I see...

Mayor Hime, what happened in the meeting

Oh...

Well, the meeting was about...

WIGGLE

BITE

Argh!

GRAB

This dog needs to—

I guess you won't need to go to the hospital.

Ow....

WHACK

I hate cowards!

Attacking someone while they're sleeping is despicable!

Don't be a baby just because you're lonely!

おっと WHOA

ゴ DASH

GRIP

Oh.

I won't look for a new owner for a cowardly dog!

Get out of my sight!!

Hime, wasn't that a bit much?

Leave him alone.

Sorry, Akina.

FLAP

.....

It's my fault for being too easy on him.

TAP TAP POUR...

That's probably why she spoiled you so much.

Same as everyone else in the office.

Hime-chan lost her parents when she was young.

CRACKLE

Okay...

Not You want to look for your mother and brothers?

.....

But I don't think she really meant for you to go away.

So let's go back, okay?

POUR

.....

SPLASH

SPLASH

Hmmm.

Okay.

We'll take care of it.

Thank you.

This dog was abandoned right over there.

Can the police take care of him?

SCLASH

You were abandoned again, huh?

CRACKLE

RUFFLE RUFFLE

Hmm?

You're going back to your mom and brothers?

You don't have to worry about them.

TREMBLE TREMBLE

POUR

Hey.

I already...

...buried them.

SMILE
ニコ★...

YOOSH

Then let's begin.

SNAP
パチ!

Now you're really alone.

So the mayor abandoned you.

HOWLLLL

!

WOOSH

FLUMP

That way...

Whoa!

Wear this!

It sounds like trouble. Let's go!

DASH

DAAAAAAAASH

Taking a walk!

What were you doing at this hour?

In your school uniform?

Akina!

Yeah!

DAAAAASH

Ice Cream

.....

Could it be?

!

TAP

Tap
He's at-tacking!
Silva!

NO...

SHIIING

WOOF

SHIIING

Akina!

THUNK

OW!

Ouch...

If there's still hope, I'M not going to attack him!

We can still save him! Do something!

Shut up! Shut up!

What are you doing, Hime?

YOOSH

What's that? I can't catch something that fast!

CRACK

Good timing, Kotoha! Can you corner him using your powers?

Sorry I'm late!

I'm sleepy!

I guess we have to catch him alive!

RROOOAAAARRRR

LICK

Sheesh.

He makes it sound like it's easy.

SLUMP

Ao, come!

You don't have to catch him.

Just limit his movements!

Man!

I was supposed to go do karaoke tomorrow!

SHIIIING

Now he has two choices!

"Wall!!"

BOOM

CRACKLE

Ao!

Yes!

CRACKLE

VOOOOOOOSH

UM...!

WOOSH

Left!!

!

WOOSH

RRRRRIP

CATCH

Ack!

Got him!!

!

VOOSH

ATTACK

Told you.

Couldn't help it.

Oh...

Hime!

Encore.

...than she does about you.

She cares more about that guy...

WOOSH

What the heck is going on?

BOOM

BOOM

BOOM

VOOOSH...

GRIP

Agh!

Damn...

!

Whoa!

I don't think...

...we can save him anymore!

RRROOOOAAAARRR

Hey, Hime!

What should we do?

SIGH

はあああ

INHALE

TUG

Okay.

Okay?
Hime?

YOOSH

Here he
comes!

JUMP

WHACK

Ugh...

How cool!

Wow, Hime's fired up.

But...!

THUD

WHACK

THUD

WHACK

THUD

WHACK

WHACK

WHACK

WHACK

Urgh...

RRRIP

Hime!

WHINE

WHINE...

Oh my goodness!

WHINE...

You're a boy! Stop your whining!

Yes...

WHINE

WHINE

He's been like this since we took him in...

We should find an owner for him soon...

He's lonely because he was taken away from his family.

CREAK

Come here.

I'll put it on.

These are called Twin Stones. There are two of them.

Hime-sama.

Yeah, you look good.

Okay.

Are you sure? That was given to you by your grand-mother...

The other stone...

You can keep that.

0

0

...I'll give...

...to your new owner...

...got quiet...

He suddenly...

.....

GRR...

WOOSH

Oh!

WHACK

This is...

GRIND

...the end!!

POW

OW!

Can't you tell!? We can't save him anymore!

ガン BONK

OW!

What... Akina!?

What are you doing!?

CREAK...

Ouch...

Don't get in MY way!!

If there were even a one percent chance of saving him, I would. But since there isn't, I have to protect the town!

I have to kill him and you have to remove the spirit.

That's how we deal with threats to our town!

BONK

BONK

But you...

BONK

BONK

I hesitated because I had hoped to save him!

. . . . . .

OW.

There's no chance now. It's hopeless!!

I can do the dirty work sometimes.

That's what...

...we're here for.

Hey!

WHIP

I guess you're right...

I'll do it!!

Give it back!

But you know...

You are right.

...you shouldn't be the one who has to do it.

Sorry...

We couldn't save you.

Hnn...

GRR...

Please go on ahead.

Hime brought us something...

How unusual...

If something becomes a threat to the town, I'd kill it without hesitation.

...I don't think I made a mistake.

But...

I didn't do much last time.

Oh.

She ate it herself.

MUNCH

……

Even if it were you guys.

...kill me without hesitation, too.

...I turn out like that...

And if...

And protect the town in my place!!

I promise.

...Okay.

Then no one could beat you.

Of course, if I fell that far, I'd get ten times stronger!

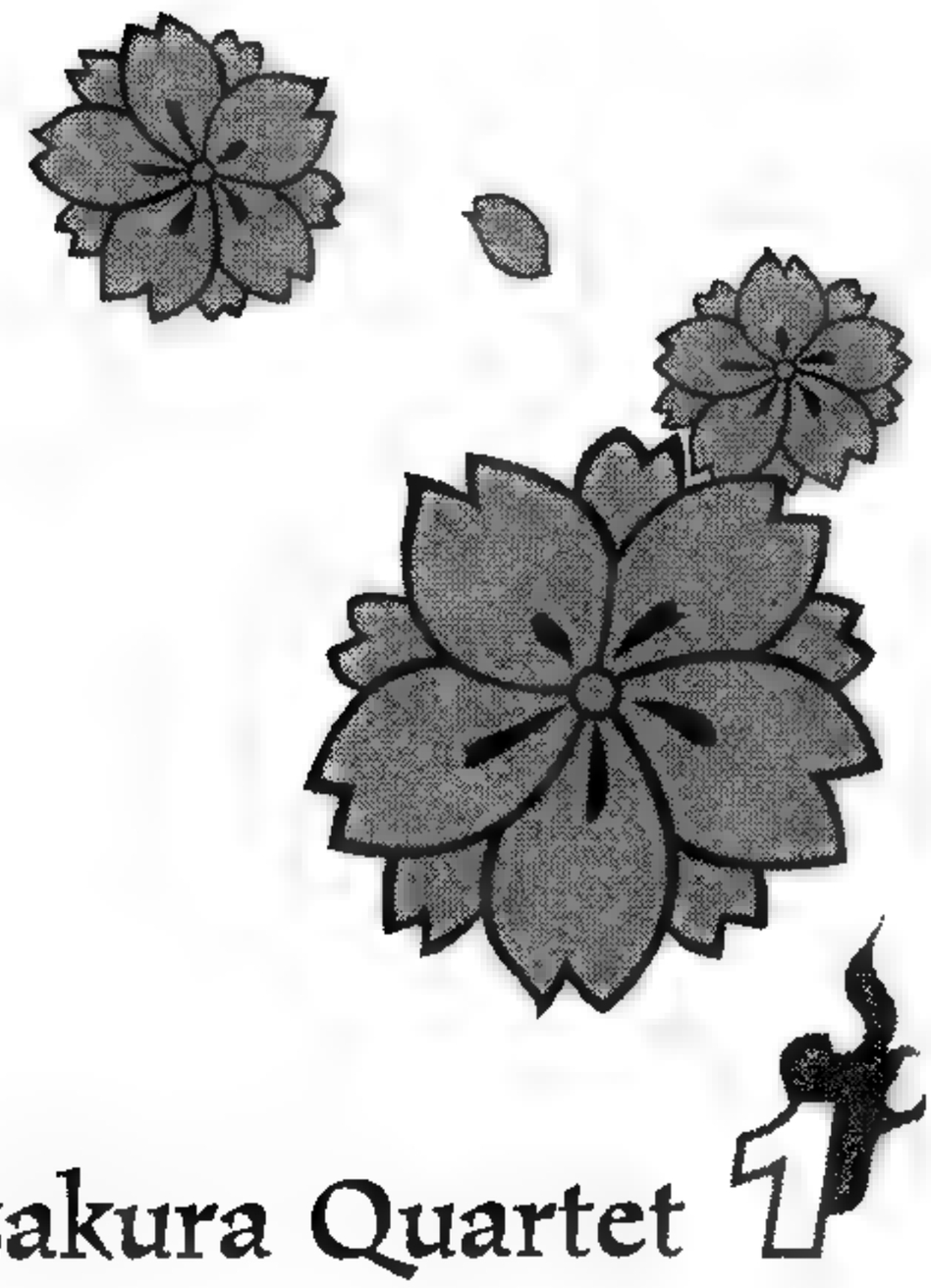
It's still impos-sible!

Train harder!

.....

TINK...

4th Night: Face the Risks FIN



Yozakura Quartet 1

Yozakura Quartet Designs

Kotoha Isone

Kotodama user with glasses and big boobs

165 cm*

*Approx: 5'5"

Age: 16

Hobbies:
traveling

Favorites

Food:
anything with vegetables

Music Group:
Strange Nude Cult

Comedian:
Itsuji Itao

Uchi-P member:
Ucchan

Little-Known Fact:
likes girls

...and a demonized dog.

A rampaging shooter...

But...

There's something going on in this town.

ほ°
ホ
SUNNY

It's so peaceful...

It's springtime.

We should be prepared so we can take action immediately. So let's take care of our paperwork.

Be prepared and have no regrets.

Wow, Kotoha-chan is amazing!

She's a hard worker!

. . . . . .

ﾌﾜｯ

EFFICIENT

EFFICIENT

Don't use your powers for stupid things!

You found out...

I was tricked!!

SHOCK

DARN

TRAVEL GERMANY

EFFICIENT

ﾌﾜｯﾌﾜｯ FLOAT FLOAT

Oh!

PUSH

EFFICIENT

ﾌﾜｯﾌﾜｯ

?

TUG

5th Night: Your Song

HEE

HEE

TRAVEL GERMANY

JAPAN AIR TOURS

Ta-da!

You're going?

Germany?

I see. Germany, huh?

FLAD

TRAVEL GERMANY

Took me forever with my low salary but I finally saved up. I'm going during spring break.

Sorry about the low salary.

DING DONG

Museums are nice, too, but actually...

HEE HEE

You like those, don't you?

Berlin
Bremen
Hamburg
Munchen

There are a lot of museums, too.

Einstein, Beethoven, Wagner, Nietzsche...

WAAAH

Sorry, Kana-chan got hurt.

Can I borrow your first-aid kit?

Oh, no.

Ummm...

It's because you're not careful!

I guess I have to...

LICK

WAAAAH

Oh my.

Uh-oh, we're out of Band-Aids.

EMPTY

DRAWER

Carefully selected rubber, plastic, zinc oxide, and other ingredients are mixed together to become an adhesive. It's then spread out on cloth and attached with a gauze in the center of it and...

TALK TALK TALK

TALK TALK

!

Can't you say that with fewer words?

♪

PLOP

POOF

But I can learn quick words...

CRACKLE

I see.

But it's not always that easy.

If it's something simple like "wall" or "ice," I can.

If you don't need to use it, you shouldn't.

THROW ヒョイ

You're great!

Can you go shopping?

And buy some Band-Aids, too?

CREAK

WOO-HOO ヤンヤヤンヤ

POOF ポン

That I can use as shortcuts, like...

"Micro-phone!"

Wow.

She's having fun.

WRITE WRITE

Let's go, Ao.

Okay.

ROGER

Uh, "two" is "zwei."

"One" is "eins."

"Three" is "drei."

"Eight" is "acht"!

"Seven" is "sieben," I think.

I forgot four through six...

Why does she know "eight" so well?

Hee hee.

My German is complete!

WHACK

THUNK

? REALLY?

Take...

...that!

THUD

Ugh!

WHACK

We're back

They're training?

Yeah.

HMPH

I...lose.

I need to get stronger...

I'm not strong enough to protect this town.

Training, Hime?

Yeah.

Huh?

Me?

Oh yeah, Kotoha.

Can you train with me?

……

チリン…

TINK...

I don't want to. It's tiring.

First aid

Kyosuke's not strong enough.

My boobs have nothing to do with this!

Fine, I'll do it!

Why not!?

Are those big boobs just there for decoration!?

What! You coward!!

I won't do it.

Sheesh...

I didn't bring a change of clothes today.

ﾍﾞｷ

CRACK

Let's do it then!

Don't get hurt!

CRACK

"Ball."

"Ball."

"Ball."

WOOSH

"Stick."

CRACKLE

THWAP!

Take that!!

GRIP

WOOSH

This is more like it!!

PING

PING

PING

"Wall!!"

KABOOM

You...

BOOM

ボコッ

WHACK

WHACK

Not enough!!

Shortcut.

"Grenade!"

ZWISH

-SWING-

WOOSH

WHACK

GASP

KA-BOOM

TMP

BLAM

BULLET

BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG
BANG BANG BANG

PING

WHOOSH

Yeah, but they can hit us!

BOOM BOOM BOOM

WHIP

Those can't hit Me!

DODGE

Still not enough!

DODGE

Hey, Kyosuke.

What?

PING

PING

Without my shackles...

I can't live in this town that easily, either.

If I take them off, I can't hold back my powers.

I can't go easy on her.

Why don't you take off your shackles and fight her?

Seri-ously.

You know I can't.

I see...

It must be tough.

Being a demon.

...

And
Whose fault
is that?

KABOOM

Aagh!

Shuriken!

Kotoha-chan
is losing.

HMPH

Huh?

Did you
say some-
thing?

WAAH

I ran out
of power!

LEAVE ME ALONE

Materialize
them!

Hey!
You're
slacking
off!

WHIP

SHU RI KEN

WHIP

This is interesting. Let's watch a bit longer.

AAGHH

AGGH

BBQ_BEEF

THUD

Oh.

My ticket...

JL411 02A

AIR TOURS C ETD

JL411 1123SP

GERMANY KOTOHA 15ou

FLAP

OW!

TRIP

CRUSH

OH

NO

RROOOAARRR

ノ"ノ"ノ"

?

?

Huh? What's this?

Heh heh. You give up?

CRACK

CRACK...

Huh?

CRACK

Hime...

THUD!

CRACK

CRACK

RRROOOAAAARRR

She's not using her powers!

Hmm. She's a powerful Kotodama User!

Heh heh

SWING

Whoa!

WOOSH

WHIP

WHIP

CLANG

Her glasses!

Is the fight over?

CRACK

ZWISH

CRACK

WOOOSH

CRACK

Hmm.

VOOOSH

SST

VOOOSH

They're just for decoration.

CRUSH

THUNK

THUNK

My Germany trip...

Shortcut!

CRACKLE

"Acht"

"Acht!!"

German army's FLAK 36 88 mm Cannon!!

What the...

KA-BOOM

BOOM

Why does she have that shortcut memorized!?

WOOSH

I can't deflect this!

KA-BOOM

Urgh!!

SLIDE

Urgh!

Hime, behind you!

UMM...
UMM...

WOOSH

Can I stop it this time?

A...

Acht.

Damn

One more!

ばっ
WOOSH

ば
WOOSH

...acht...

SABLE

SABLE?

FLASH

GRAB

POOF

MUNCH

Aaagh!

ACK!

WHAP!

A pigeon sable?

TUG

MUNCH MUNCH

Idiot! Look at the kids back there!

Do you know what would've happened if you shot that cannon!?

WHAP

Don't forget that time...

...

...you were demonized!!

Hey! Are you listening?

...

TAP

...You're right...

I'm sorry...

Akina.

Sorry.

I'm okay now.

I'm sorry I scared you.

Come here.

TWITCH

"Sakura."

WOOOOSH

How pretty!

Wow.

Himemo for short.

Himemo... What?

Himemo's memo.

What's that?

Huh?

Kotoha's dangerous when mad...

WRITE WRITE

Ugh...I'm really sorry about that.

I really wanted to go to Germany...

Sigh... but...

BITE BITE

Koblenz Museum of Military Technology Located in the center of Koblenz. There are many tanks and weapons on display. It is a must-see for any Military enthusiast.

I really wanted to visit...

...the Koblenz Museum of Military Technology.

You were trying to go there!?

RUSTLE RUSTLE RUSTLE

Found it.

Huh? Germany? I think...

Hm?

What?

How convenient!!

No way!

HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY HAPPY

Tonight's karaoke tournament.

The grand prize is a trip to Germany.

FLAP

March 24
"Sakurashin Town
Karaoke Tournament"
Starts at 4 p.m.
Grand Prize
A trip to Germany

As long as...

I have this...

Yeah! My favorite "Microphone"!

TA-DA!

ピッピッピー

Aaaaaaaa aghhhhhhh!

Because you used it up...

I lost my voice!

Yozakura Quartet 1

I came from the countryside to live here in the Yozakura Dorms!

My name is Akina Hiizumi!

Yozakura

Hello! I'm staying here as of today!

CLICK

My life in Tokyo starts here!

THUD

Whoa!

Alright!

What the heck?

Ack!

TA-DA

Aagh!

THUD

Whoa!

Manager

Uh, um...

TA-DA

Whoa!

You pervert!!

ACK!

DON

WAAH

The owner's daughter

WOBBLE

Al dente!

Huh?
Oh, UM...

I'M sorry
I'M such a
klutz...

Uh...

I'M
sorry...

SOB
SOB

© Hiroki Haruse

Aaagghhh!!

ヤ'ヒ
ヤ''ヽ
ヤ'' BEEP
BEEP

Intruder
...need to
destroy.

←Watch
Robot

Denied!!

I think
this is how the
story should
go. Then it'd be
more popular.

The title
should be
abbrevi-
ated as
"Yoza-
Quart!"

Bonus Manga

Thank you very much!

This is a bonus manga to follow the weird manga you just read.

Hello. Thank you for buying *Yozakura Quartet* volume 1!

...So anyway...

TANAKA Soba Store

Hey!

BUZZ

BUZZ

But there are too many people, so I'll only cover Hime this time.

I think I'll talk about the behind-the-scenes stuff here...

Originally, I was supposed to do a demon series with someone else writing the story.

I see.

Followed

SLURP

SLURP

"Tanaka" Soba Store

...behind the scenes...

HM.

Soba is good.

SLURP

SLURP

Hime memo: Hime eats cold soba seven times a week. (The author eats it five times a week.)

I was told to come up with a storyboard for what I wanted to do.

Then do you want to do something on your own?

But then I got faster at drawing.

So the plan changed.

EDITOR

And I said something like this.

I can only draw twelve pages a month.

But at the time (July 2004), I was really slow at drawing.

Then my editor made some suggestions to change it around a bit.

But the editor in chief shot it down.

Darn.

January 2005

What I came up with was *Glorious Life*, the prototype for Yozakura.

It was a series set in Sakurashin Town

But that was shot down, too.

ARGH

So we ended up with *Yozakura Falsetto* in August 2005.

Oh, I get it.

EDITOR

I want to do something like *Charlie's Angels*.

...? It changed a lot...

Three girls and one guy as the main characters.

Demon hunters for hire.

How about *Yozakura Quartet*?

While taking a walk

There are four of them.

Yozakura Falsetto is hard to understand. Think of a new title.

So I thought about it for a few days...

At the New Series Party

EDITOR

That was October 2005.

New Series!

It was a long road.

I was told it was my last chance, so I fixed it, and it finally made it through the editor in chief.

"Sayala" Indian Restaurant

It was a long road.

This naan is good.

It was a long road.

And I started the series in January 2006.

How about *Yozakura Quartet*?

And when I got home, my editor called.

Amazing.

Hime memo: Hime prefers naan (instead of rice) with curry.

So please look forward to volume 2.

My friend said that the story only gets interesting in volume 2... (how sad)

So that's how *Yozakura* started, but we're still at the beginning of the story.

Thanks!

MUNCH MUNCH

"Tomita" Mexican Restaurant

That's true.

Actually, the chapters in this volume were switched around from when it ran in the magazine.

Then a little more...

SLURP ずるずる

SLURP

SLURP ずる

Peperoncino with mint leaves is good.

It's a pagination situation.

There are more pages!?

Hey, what the heck!?

EDITOR

Hime memo: Hime eats six meals a day.

Maybe I shouldn't have this in the beginning...

This happened because the Hime story was a little too dark.

It's like this.

1. First story
2. Ao (Part 1)
3. Ao (Part 2)
4. Hime
5. Kotoha

But in the book...

1. First story
2. Hime's story
3. Kotoha
4. Ao (Part 1)
5. Ao (Part 2)

In the maga-zine...

I see.

"Tsun-shun!"

That's what he said.

Hime isn't really a tsundere. She's actually tsun tsun, then shun...so she's tsunshun.

Oh yeah, Ryogo Narita-san, who reads my manga (thank you!) said...

And Hime was really a bad girl, so I changed her personality a bit, too.

A bad girl?

So I moved it back, after the story developed more (my friend said I should, too).

The poor dog.

Actually, until the final final version before this series ran...

Hmm... then...

Just a little bit more.

There's still space to fill.

SLURP ズズズ～

Hime is depressed in every chapter.

Tsunheko

Tsunshun didn't sound too good, so I changed it to...

Ta-da!

But she's actually my favorite character.

Really?

You don't have to say that!

She was created because my editor suggested that we have a girl with glasses.

ポカ WHACK ポカ WHACK

BLECH

I didn't have Kotoha.

Please read the second volume, too! I 'll see you then!

Thank you to everyone who helped me with this book. Kato-sensei, thank you for the title logo. Thank you to Narita-san for promoting this title in his book. Thank you to Shiro Miwa-san for the sakura petals. Thank you to my assistants, Amagi-san, Anri-san, and Sugiyama-san, etc, etc. And to all the readers! Thank you very much!

See you!

So now we are out of pages.

Translation Notes

Japanese is a tricky language for most Westerners, and translation is often more an art than a science. For your edification and reading pleasure, here are notes on some of the places where we could have gone in a different direction, or where a Japanese cultural reference is used.

Sakura, page 2

Sakura is the Japanese term for cherry blossoms. The word "Yozakura" in the title refers to *sakura* at night, or viewing *sakura* at night.

Tsundere, page 51

Tsundere is a term for a specific character trait, describing a person who is standoffish or aloof but can become loveable and adorable in different situations. This term first started in Japanese dating simulation games, then moved on to anime and manga, but is now widely used in mass media.

Your Song Is Good, page 54

Your Song Is Good is a Japanese musical group with six members that formed in 1998. Their name is abbreviated as YSIG.

Itoshi Koishi Master, page 54

A comedic duo made up of older brother Itoshi and younger brother Koishi. Itoshi died in 2003, and Koishi retired from comedy. However, he still works in the entertainment industry as a commentator and actor.

Uchi-P, page 54

Uchi-P is an abbreviated term for *Uchimura Produce*, a TV show featuring comedians doing comedy sketches.

Otake, page 54

Otake is a Japanese comedian. His full name is Kazuki Otake, and he and his partner Masakazu Mimura make up the comedic group SUMMERS.

Hidagyu, page 55

Hidagyu is a kind of Japanese beef from cattle raised in Hida, a city in Gifu prefecture. It's fatty and known to be expensive. This character is a play on the character Pikachu from *Pocket Monsters* (*Pokemon*).

Onii-chan, page 67

Onii-chan is an honorific for an "older brother."

Don't bring my sister into this!
Hey, wait a minute!
"Your onii-chan likes little girls."
You know what I'M going to tell Touka-chan?
GASP

Suemitsu & the Suemith, page 80

A singer and songwriter in Japan. He is also a pianist and a composer. He plays a genre called "Grind Piano Rock," which is like a fusion of classical music and rock.

Red Yoshida, page 80

Red Yoshida is a Japanese comedian. He and his partner Golgo Matsumoto make up the duo TIM.

Kiyoshi, page 101

Akina is referring to Kiyoshi Nishikawa, whose motto was "move up in baby steps." Kiyoshi Nishikawa is a Japanese comedian who also served in the upper house of parliament.

Under the Counter, page 118

Under the Counter is a Japanese rock band composed of four friends who met in college. They are also known as UTC.

Warai Meshi, page 118

Warai Meshi is a Japanese comedy duo composed of Koji Nishida and Tetsuo. Both were originally part of different duos, but their partners couldn't keep up with their strong personalities. Their name comes from the phrase "making a living with comedy."

Mimura, page 118

Masakazu Mimura is a Japanese comedian who is part of SUMMERS. His partner is Kazuki Otake.

Strange Nude Cult, page 162

Strange Nude Cult is a Japanese rock band, a trio. They are from the western region of Japan, and have a cult following among the locals.

Itsuji Itao, page 162

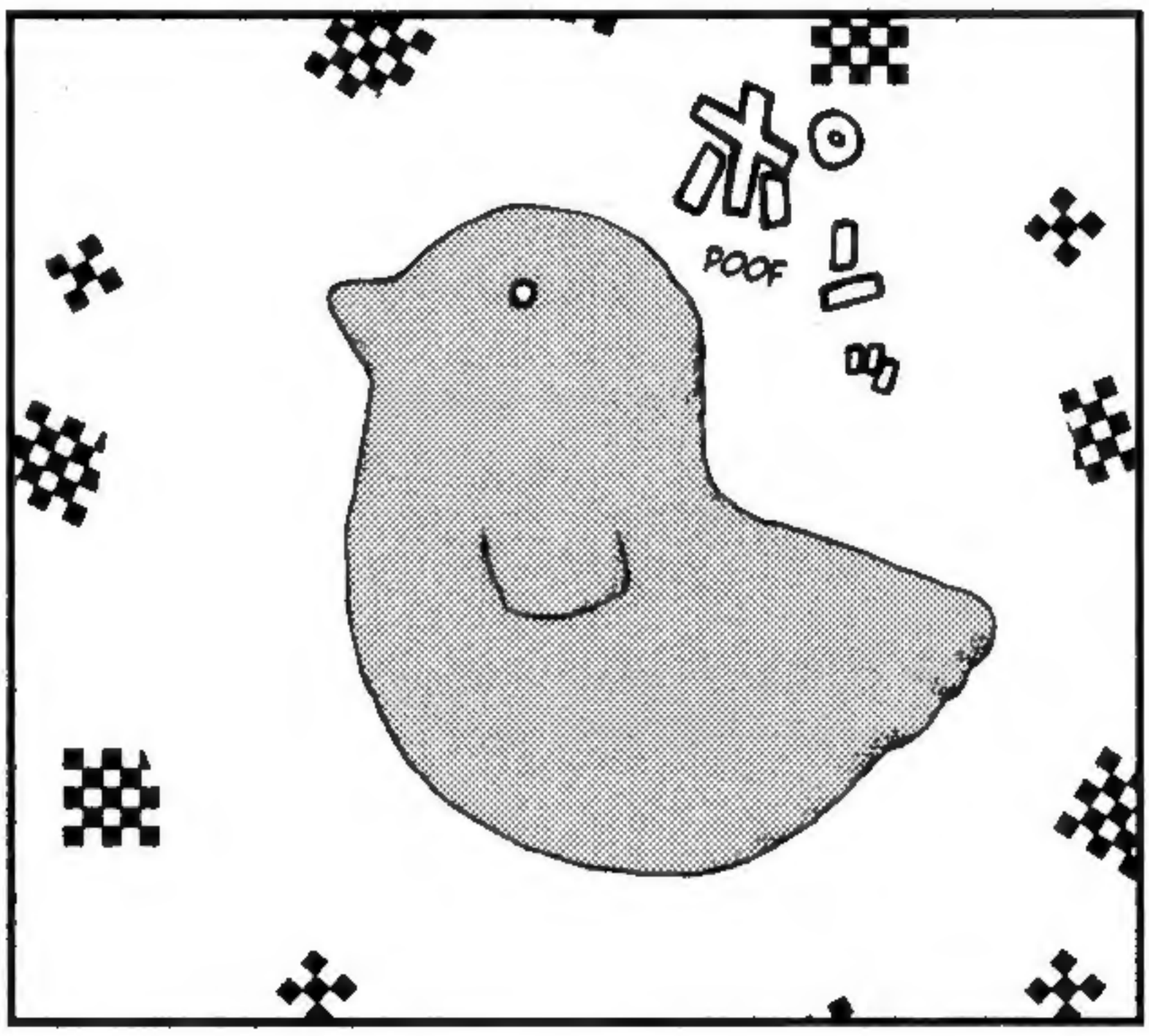
Itao is a Japanese comedian who is a member of the duo 130R. His partner is Hong Kong (real name Takahiro Kurano).

Ucchan, page 162

Ucchan is the abbreviated name for Teruyoshi Uchimura, the executive producer and main comedian for Uchi-P. He is a member of the duo Ucchan Nanchan with his partner Kiyotaka Nanbara.

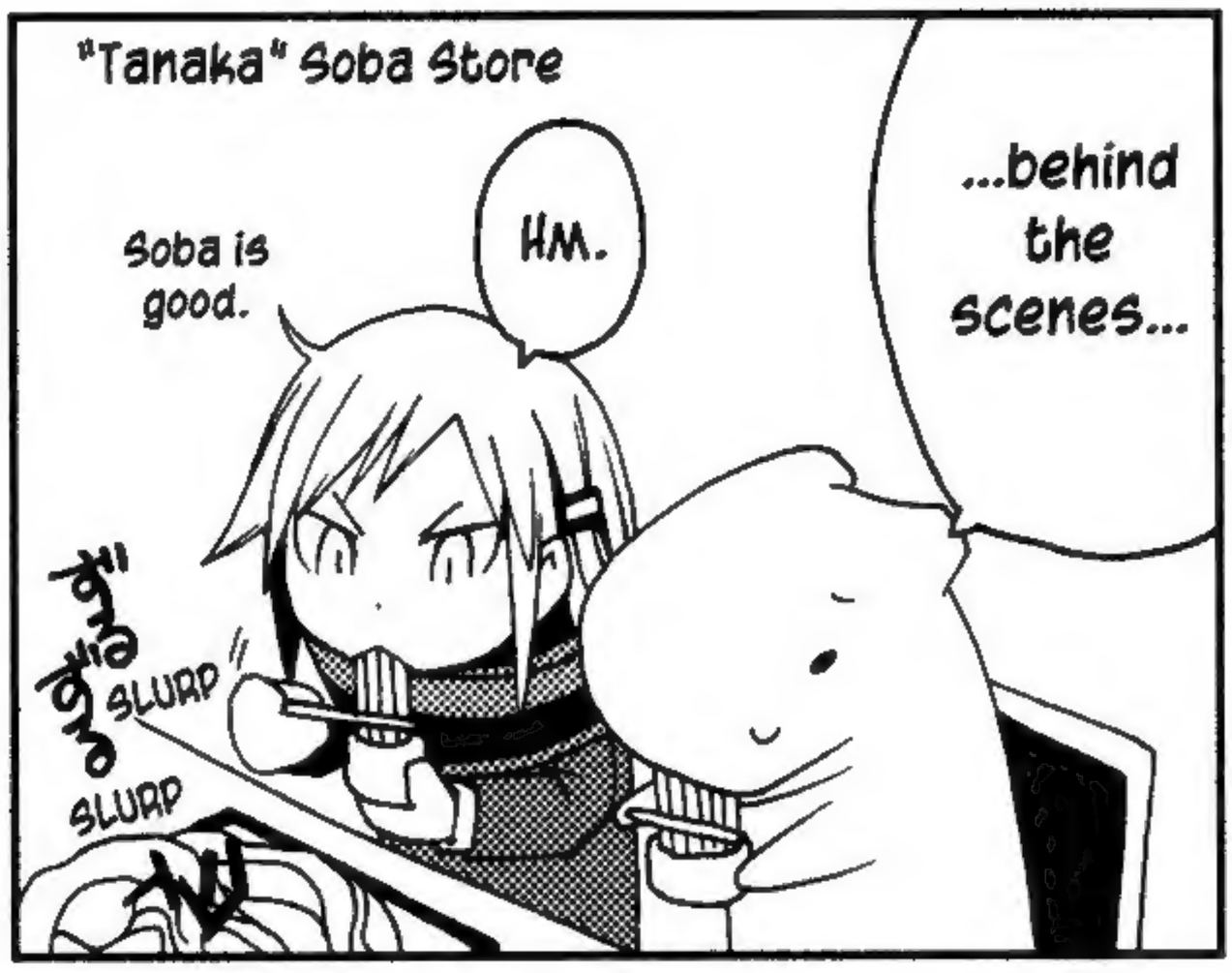
Acht Sable, page 190

"Acht" sounds like *a hato* in Japanese. *Hato* is a word for pigeon, and a *hato sable* is a sable in the shape of a pigeon, which is often used for souvenirs. A sable is a buttery-flavored cookie that originated in France.



Hiroki Haruse, page 202

Hiroki Haruse is the author of "U I Etranze," which is featured in *Magazine Sirius*, the magazine that runs *Yozakura Quartet*.



Soba, page 203

Soba is the Japanese term for buckwheat noodles. They are gray in color and are one of the healthier noodles available in Japan. They can be served hot or cold, although in manga they are often depicted as cold.

Ryogo Narita, page 206

Ryogo Narita is a novelist from Japan. He mostly writes "light novels" that are made for anime/manga fans. He is known to write fast, but also has many typos.

Shun and *Heko*, pages 206 & 207

To be *shun* is to be sad or depressed. You can also use the word *heko* for the same thing. *Heko* is originally meant "a dent or indentation," but modern Japanese use the term for your mood being "dented."